

The Status of Women in Anderson County



STATUS OF WOMEN IN ANDERSON COUNTY: AN OVERVIEW

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INDICATOR	DATA	COUNTY RANKING
		(of 95 Counties)
COMPOSITE EMPLOYMENT & EARNINGS INDEX	36.00	19
Women's Annual Earnings	\$23,467	15
Women's Earnings as a Percentage of Men's Earnings (Wage Gap)	69.60%	67
Women's Labor Force Participation Rate	41.50%	52
Female Unemployment Rate	6.00%	45
Women in Managerial or Professional Occupations	44.6	1
COMPOSITE ECONOMIC AUTONOMY INDEX	35.75	20
Businesses that are Women-Owned (% of total)	25.00%	30
Women with a Four-Year College Degree (%)	16.8%	13
Women With a High School Diploma (%)	78.5%	10
Female High School Dropout Rate	7.2%	52
Women with any Kind of Health Insurance Coverage (%)	91.90%	47
Women Earning Incomes Below the Poverty Level (%)	14.40%	33
Single Female-Headed Households Living In Poverty (%)	10.5%	63
Adolescent Pregnancy Rate (Ages 10-19)	32.4	38

Report Overview: This publication on the Status of Women in Anderson County is part of a statewide publication of the Tennessee Economic Council on Women, *The Status of Women in Tennessee Counties, 2004*. The Economic Council on Women is a State agency created under TCA § 4-50-100, et seq. by the One Hundredth General Assembly in 1998 to address the economic needs of Tennessee women.

The Status of Women in Tennessee Counties

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Women have taken remarkable strides towards economic equality, from education to earnings to political participation. Women are now pursuing goals such as business ownership, leadership roles in their careers, and election to state and federal political office. However, obstacles still exist in the climb toward equality. Nationwide, equal numbers of men and women are obtaining four-year college degrees; however, these gains have not translated into pay equity. The average college-educated woman working full time earns \$44,200 a year compared to \$61,800 for men in the same category. Women are still under-represented in many of the highest paying, fastest growing sectors of the economy. Helping women break into these traditionally male-dominated areas like computer science, engineering, mathematics and technology, as well as all skilled-labor positions, gives women tools for self-sufficiency and understanding of their personal capabilities, and these advances are good for the economy of our counties and of our state.

Employment and Earnings

The employment and earnings index includes data on women's annual earnings, the earnings gender gap, female labor force participation, female unemployment, and percentages of women in professional or managerial occupations.

- ◇ Median annual earnings for a woman in Anderson County are \$23,467 while the median annual earnings for a man in the county are \$33,710, producing a wage gap of 30.4%.
- ◇ Women make up 46.9% of the civilian labor force in the county but only 25% of businesses in the county are owned by women.
- ◇ While the unemployment rate for Anderson County overall is 5.3%, the unemployment rate for Anderson women is 6.0%.
- ◇ Anderson County has more women in managerial or professional occupations than any other county in the state, with 44.6% of employed women working in such positions. 31.6% of all employed persons in Anderson County work in managerial or professional occupations.

Economic Autonomy

The economic autonomy index includes information on educational attainment, business ownership, and general quality of life issues.

- ◇ In Anderson County, over three-fourths of women have a high school diploma, but there is still a 7.2% female high school dropout rate in the county. About the same percentage of men have a high school degree.
- ◇ Despite being in close proximity to Roane State Community College, Pellissippi State Technical Community College, and the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, only 16.8% of women in Anderson County have a four-year college degree. 20.8% of all county residents have at least a bachelor's degree.
- ◇ Over 8 percent of women in Anderson County have no kind of health insurance coverage.
- ◇ With over 14 percent of women in Anderson County earning below poverty level incomes, more than 10 percent of female-headed households with children are in poverty. 18.4% of children under 18 years live below the poverty level.
- ◇ While 25.0% of privately-held businesses in Anderson County are owned by women, women-owned firms account for just 4.0% of income and receipts from private firms in the county.

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		Anderson County	Rank of Anderson County	Highest Ranking County
Earnings	Median Annual Earnings for FT Females	\$23,467	40	Williamson: \$32,243
	Wage Gap	69.6%	26	Davidson: 82.1%

Employment	Female Labor Force Participa- tion Rate	41.5%	63	Rutherford: 50.9%
	Female Unemployment Rate	6.0%	84	Pickett: 1.5%
	Percent of Employed Females in Management, Prof., and Related Occupations	44.6%	94	Anderson: 44.6%
	Women Owned Business % of Total	25.0%	30	Moore: 63.3%

Education	% of Females with 4 Year Degree or Better	16.8%	13	Williamson: 39.5%
	% of Females with High School Diploma (or equiva- lency)	78.5%	10	Williamson: 90.6%
	Female Dropout Rate	7.2%	52	Clay/Pickett: 0.0%

Lifestyles	% of Women with any kind of Health Insurance Coverage	91.9%	47	Williamson: 100%
	% of Women Living Below Poverty Level Incomes	14.4%	33	Williamson: 5.4%
	% of all Female Headed Households with Children in Poverty	10.5%	63	Williamson: 2.5%
	Rate of Pregnancy of Girls Aged 10-19 per 1000	32.4	38	Williamson: 1.2

ABOUT THE COUNCIL AND THIS REPORT

Anderson County

The Status of Women in Tennessee Counties report offers an economic profile of women in each county of Tennessee and examines how women's rights and equality vary among the counties. The report presents data and overall rankings in two categories of women's economic status: employment and earnings and economic autonomy. Indicators of women's status in each category make up the composite rankings of the counties.

The employment and earnings section presents data on women's annual earnings, the earnings gender gap, female labor force participation rate, the female unemployment rate, and the percentage of women in managerial occupations.

The economic autonomy section includes information on the percentage of businesses owned by women, educational attainment levels, percentage of households headed by a single female, single female headed households living in poverty, percentage of women with health insurance, the high school dropout rate and the teen pregnancy rate.

The **Tennessee Economic Council on Women** was created in 1998 by the Tennessee General Assembly to assess Tennessee women's economic status. The Council develops and advocates solutions to address women's needs in order to help women achieve economic autonomy. In setting its priorities, the Council selects issues that are timely and likely to result in positive changes for women.

Co-Authors: Jennifer Rawls, Executive Director, Julia Reynolds, Research Analyst, and Lee Eubanks, Intern

Visit the Tennessee Economic Council on Women at www.tennesseewomen.org

SOURCES	
Earnings and Employment	
Median Annual Earnings for Full Time Employed Females	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Wage Gap (Female Earnings as a Percentage of Earnings)	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Female Labor Force Participation Rate	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Female Unemployment Rate	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Percent of Employed Females in Management, Professional, and Related Occupations	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Economic Autonomy	
Women-owned Business, Percent of total	Economic Census, 1997
Percent of Females w/4yr Degree or Better	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Percent of Females with a High School Diploma (or equivalency)	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Female Dropout Rate	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Percent of Women with Any Kind of Health Insurance Coverage	Tennessee Department of Health, 2002
Percent of Women Living Below Poverty Level Incomes	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Percent of all Female Headed Households with Children in Poverty	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Rate of Pregnancy of Girls Aged 10-19 per 1000	Tennessee Department of Health, 2002
Voter Demographics and Elected County Officials	National Association of Counties